

Elsewhere in this current number are reprinted some newspaper paragraphs giving further information concerning the American Medical Association session at San Francisco.*

ANNUAL JOINT MEETINGS WITH RELATED PROFESSIONS

Individualization in Medical Practice a Fundamental Element in Medical Progress.—

Individualization in medical practice—meaning thereby the relation of the individual patient to his individual physician—is something that has existed since the beginnings of the healing art. With, however, the advent and promulgation, in recent years, of plans put forward by sociologists and others, and asserted by them as capable of providing a better system of medical care than that which has been responsible during the last several decades for much of the amazing advance in medical science leading to a notable prolongation of human life, it has been necessary to emphasize and re-emphasize the value of this individual relationship between physician and patient, and its significance to medical progress.

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In Civil and Political Life, Conjoint Effort Is Necessary.—

Valuable as individualization may be in relation to the care of patients, it does not follow, in matters related to civil and political life, that such a system should likewise obtain. The citizen seeks the physician in whom he has confidence, and the physician, in turn, knowing that his success in professional life depends upon his alertness to the advances in medical science, seeks to use all methods that will aid in the conservation of human health and life.

In the political system under which we live, however, our lawmakers and civil administrators respond best when the considered opinion of influential persons is presented to them through organized groups of citizens having closely related professional, vocational, trade, or other affiliations. The prevention of the enactment of undesirable laws and ordinances is often more easily accomplished than their repeal; provided, that the appropriate presentations, at the proper time, are made to the statute makers, be they legislators, supervisors or councilmen, by responsible, authoritative and influential groups.

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Close Association of the Professions of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Law, Veterinary Medicine and Nursing.—

The professions of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, nursing, and even of the law, in these recent years, are constantly confronted with problems, such as corporate practice, in which the principles involved apply equally to each of the above professions, and are worthy, therefore, of the united opposition of these six professions, one or more of whose members practically have contacts of worth with virtually every family in the State of California.

* For these news items, see page 100.

Medical Profession Should Lead in Maintaining Contacts with Related Guilds.—How may this conjoint effort and action be best secured? In this endeavor, the medical profession, through its state and county units, and their official local subdivisions, should not hesitate to take the lead, if necessary. The objectives can be easily realized if every county medical society, each year, will invite the official organizations of their respective communities, representing dentistry, pharmacy, law, nursing and veterinary medicine, to be guests of the medical profession at joint meetings, with short speeches on pertinent topics by members of the two professions in session, to be preceded or followed by an informal dinner or supper or buffet refreshments.

Such meetings are certain to be found thought-stimulating, and are valuable also for the fraternal fellowships and better understandings that can then and there be so engendered. Program committees are urged to give these suggestions their consideration, and especially, in this election year, to bring about, if possible, such conjoint meetings prior to the final elections in November. In the past, such gatherings have been found most useful; and today, they are as important, and more than ever needed.

Other State Association and Component County Society News.—Additional news concerning the activities and work of the California Medical Association and its component county medical societies is printed in this issue, commencing on page 69.

EDITORIAL COMMENT†

HOW SAFE IS THE OPERATION FOR LENGTHENING LEGS?

An operation that will add two to three inches of length to a short leg is highly desirable from several points of view. The strongest appeal from the patient's standpoint is the cosmetic one; but there are other valid reasons to make this particular operation a valuable asset to the orthopedic surgeon's armamentarium.

In the case of a weak leg of poliomyelitis, making the leg lengths equal reduces the load of the heavy, raised shoe. Many of these patients must and are physically able to take their place in the commercial world, but their chances of finding employment while wearing an unsightly raised shoe is definitely decreased.

During the past eight years, at the Orthopedic Hospital in Los Angeles, we have done seventy-five leg-lengthening operations. This shortening has been associated with a variety of conditions, such as poliomyelitis, spastic hemiplegia, hemi-ectromelia,

† This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents editorial comments by contributing members on items of medical progress, science and practice, and on topics from recent medical books or journals. An invitation is extended to all members of the California Medical Association to submit brief editorial discussions suitable for publication in this department. No presentation should be over five hundred words in length.